



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,281	03/15/2001	John M. Hall	10004375-1	8897

7590 10/13/2005
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P. O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

BRUCKART, BENJAMIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2155

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/810,281

Applicant(s)

HALL ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin R. Bruckart

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Claims 1-21 are pending in this Office Action.

Claims 1, 11, 14 and 18 are amended.

There are no new claims.

There are no cancelled claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/19/05 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's invention as claimed:

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10-15, 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,643,687 by Dickie et al.

Regarding claim 1, a method of providing relative addressing in a computer network environment (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-43), the method comprising:

- associating a plurality of relative destinations with a corresponding plurality of actions (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54), wherein each of the sender-relative destinations is a non-absolute destination having an associated absolute destination that varies based on sender identity (Dickie: col. 5, lines 36-63);

- receiving a first relative destination for a communication (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40; recipient);

- receiving sender identification information identifying the sender of the communication and destination information from an email (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40; sender).

- identifying a first action in the plurality of actions associated with the first sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54); and

- determining a first absolute destination for the communication based on the first action and the sender identification information (Dickie: col. 6, lines 12-24)

Regarding claim 2, the method of claim 1, wherein the network includes a directory server (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62), and wherein the determination of the first absolute destination is made by retrieving from the directory server the first absolute destination based on the first action and the sender identification information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62).

Art Unit: 2155

Regarding claim 4, the method of claim 1, wherein the identification information is an email address (Dickie: col. 5, lines 25-37).

Regarding claim 5, the method of claim 1, wherein the sender identification information is a user name (Dickie: col. 4, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 18-34).

Regarding claim 6, the method of claim 1, wherein the first absolute destination is an email address (Dickie: col. 5, lines 25-37).

Regarding claim 10, the method of claim 1, and further comprising providing a mapping table that associates the plurality of sender-relative destinations with the corresponding plurality of actions (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62; col. 6, lines 42-54)

Regarding claim 11, a network device configured to be coupled to a computer network (Dickie: Fig. 1), the network device comprising:

- a receiver for receiving a communication, the communication including destination information and sender identification information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40; sender and recipient);

- a memory for storing search information identify searches associated with sender-relative destinations (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62);

- a controller coupled to the receiver and memory (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40), the controller configured to: process the destination information to identify a type of destination specified including identifying whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54); perform at least one search based on the stored search information and the sender identification information if the destination information specifies a sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 5, lines 42-62); and identify at least one absolute destination based on the search (Dickie: col. 6, lines 12-24).

Regarding claim 12, the network device of claim 11, wherein the memory stores a mapping table that includes the search information identifying searches associated with sender-relative destinations (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62).

Regarding claim 13, the network device of claim 11, wherein the memory stores an address resolving process (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62), and wherein the controller is configured to identify the at least one absolute destination based on information in the stored mapping table and in the stored address resolving process (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62).

Regarding claim 14, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of providing relative addressing in a computer network (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-43) comprising:

- associating a plurality of relative destinations with a corresponding plurality of actions (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54), wherein each of the sender-relative destinations is a non-absolute

Art Unit: 2155

destination having an associated absolute destination that varies based on sender identity (Dickie: col. 5, lines 36-63);

receiving a first relative destination for a communication (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40; recipient);

receiving identification information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-45);

identifying a first action in the plurality of actions associated with the first relative destination (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54); and

determining a first absolute destination for the communication based on the first action and the identification information (Dickie: col. 6, lines 12-24).

Regarding claim 15, the medium of claim 14, wherein the network includes a directory server (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62), and wherein the determination of the first absolute destination is made by retrieving from the directory server the first absolute destination based on the first action and the sender identification information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62).

Regarding claim 17, the medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises providing a mapping table that associates the plurality of sender-relative destinations with the corresponding plurality of actions (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62; col. 6, lines 42-54).

Regarding claim 18, a method of providing user-relative addressing in a computer network (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-43), the method comprising:

receiving a communication including destination information and sender identification information, the destination information including a first sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-40; recipient);

processing the destination information to determine a type of destination specified, including determining whether the destination information specified a non-absolute sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 5, lines 25-62);

including determining whether the destination information specified a non-absolute sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 5, lines 24-34; col. 6, lines 1-16; proxy address);

accessing a sender record based on the received sender identification information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62);

providing action information identifying a plurality of actions associated with a plurality of sender-relative destinations (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54);

identifying a first action in the action information based on the received destination information; the first action associated with the first sender-relative destination (Dickie: col. 6, lines 10-24; lines 42-54);

identifying a first attribute in the sender record based on the first action and the received destination information (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62);

determining a first absolute destination based on the first attribute (Dickie: col. 6, lines 10-24).

Regarding claim 19, the method of claim 18, wherein the network includes a directory server (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62), and wherein a record is accessed from the directory server (Dickie:

Art Unit: 2155

col. 5, lines 37-62), and wherein the determination of the first absolute destination is made by retrieving from the directory server the first absolute destination based on the first attribute (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62).

Regarding claim 20, the method of claim 18, and further comprising providing a mapping table that associates the plurality of actions with the plurality of sender-relative destinations (Dickie: col. 5, lines 37-62; col. 6, lines 42-55).

Regarding claim 21, the method of claim 18, and further comprising:

- accessing a plurality of employee records based on the first action (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62; employee records=recipients);

- comparing a first attribute in each employee record with the first attribute in the sender record (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62; pairing);

- identifying employee records with a first attribute that matches the first attribute of the sender's record (Dickie: col. 5, lines 35-62);

- determining a plurality of absolute destinations based on the identified employee records (Dickie: col. 6, lines 42-54).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by U.S. 6,643,687 by Dickie et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,508 by Agraharam et al.

Regarding claim 3,

- The Dickie reference teaches the method of claim 2.

- The Dickie reference does not explicitly state use of an LDAP server.

- The Agraharam reference teaches a directory server is an LDAP server (Agra: col. 4, lines 1-12).

- The Agraharam reference further teaches the LDAP is used to retrieve the real email address before forwarding the email (Agra: col. 4, lines 1-12).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to create the method of providing relative addressing in a computer network environment as taught by Dickie while employing an LDAP server as taught by Takahashi in order to retrieve the real email address before forwarding the email (Agra: col. 4, lines 1-12).

Claims 7-9, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by U.S. 6,643,687 by Dickie et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,589 by Takahashi et al.

Regarding claim 7,

- The Dickie reference teaches the method of claim 1.

- The Dickie reference does not explicitly state sending to a plurality of email addresses but does teach sending to many different addresses.

- The Takahashi reference teaches the first absolute destination is a plurality of email addresses of relative addressing in email (Taka: col. 7, lines 2-10; Fig. 4).

Art Unit: 2155

The Takahashi reference further teaches the invention overcomes drawbacks of being away from the computer allowing users to customize selection of messages to be converted or forward to receive time sensitive email messages (Taka: col. 2, lines 28- col. 3, line 30).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to create the method of providing relative addressing in a computer network environment as taught by Dickie while employing sending to a plurality of email addresses as taught by Takahashi in order to allow overcome drawbacks of being away from the computer allowing users to customize selection of messages to be converted or forward to receive time sensitive email messages (Taka: col. 2, lines 28- col. 3, line 30).

Claims 8-9 are rejected under the same rationale given above. In the rejections set fourth, the examiner will address the additional limitations and point to the relevant teachings of Dickie and Takahashi.

Regarding claim 8, the method of claim 1, wherein the first absolute destination is a fax phone number (Taka: col. 6, lines 65-67; Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 9, the method of claim 1, wherein the first absolute destination is a plurality of fax phone numbers (Taka: col. 6, lines 65-67; Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 16,

The Dickie reference teaches the method of claim 14.

The Dickie reference does not explicitly state sending to a fax number does say mention phone numbers.

The Takahashi reference teaches the first absolute destination is a fax phone number (Taka: col. 6, lines 65-67; Fig. 4).

The Takahashi reference further teaches the invention overcomes drawbacks of being away from the computer allowing users to customize selection of messages to be converted or forward to receive time sensitive email messages (Taka: col. 2, lines 28- col. 3, line 30).

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to create the method of providing relative addressing in a computer network environment as taught by Dickie while employing sending to a plurality of email addresses as taught by Takahashi in order to allow overcome drawbacks of being away from the computer allowing users to customize selection of messages to be converted or forward to receive time sensitive email messages (Taka: col. 2, lines 28- col. 3, line 30).

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to include limitations involving absolute and non-absolute destinations based on sender identity.

Applicant is encouraged to detail claims in great detail. The following prior art reads openly on many of the claims and no allowable material has been found.

PRIOR ART

Applicant has amended the claims to include limitations involving absolute and non-absolute destinations based on sender identity.

Japanese Patent 03113934 filed 9/27/90 teaches converting addresses written on mail into actual address by department address file or individual address.

PCT Application WO 00/77593 A2 by Allen et al teaches relative delivery address associated with a recipient.*

U.S. Patent No. 6,832,245 by Isaacs teaches analyzing messages and delivery based on previous or stored messages.

U.S. Patent No. 6,591,291 by Gabber et al teaches anonymous remailing and filtering of electronic messages.

U.S. Patent 5,938,725 by Hara teaches determining destination of electronic messages from stored messages and keywords.*

U.S. Patent No. 6,154,839 teaches including sender and recipient data into a message to send the packet to identifier the sender and receiver.

U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0030752 by Selgas et al teaches including identification in a message header before transmitting a message for delivery based on the header data from the sender.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin R. Bruckart whose telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 2155

272-3982. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin R Bruckart
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

brb *BRB*


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER